

Message Text

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20

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 DODE-00 SAJ-01 MC-02 ACDA-05 EB-07

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /065 W

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R 161410Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5158

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 0716

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IT, TU

SUBJECT: SALES OF ADDITIONAL F-104S AIRCRAFT TO TURKEY

REF: STATE 278157, DTG 242343Z NOV 75

1. AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL PARA 1, THE GOI HAS SUBMITTED A
NOTE VERBALE (NO. 072/BIS 0012 DATED 15 JAN 1976) REQUESTING
USG AUTHORIZATION OF 44 F-104S AIRCRAFT TO TURKEY.

2. TEXT OF NOTE VERBALE (EMBASSY TRANSLATION):

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE
DELIVERY TO TURKEY OF F-104S AIRCRAFT PRODUCED BY THE AERIT-
ALIA COMPANY, WHICH, AS IS KNOWN, MAY BE SUMMARIZED AS
FOLLOWS:

- A FIRST COUNTRACT PROVIDED FOR THE EXPORTATION, ALREADY EF-
FECTED, OF 18 AIRCRAFT;

- A SECOND CONTRACT ENVISAGED THE SALE OF A FURTHER LOT OF 22
AIRCRAFT, 18 OF WHICH ARE NOW BEING DELIVERED, THEIR EXPORTA-
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TION HAVING ALREADY BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN

ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1965 ANDREOTTI-MCNAMEARA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

MOREOVER, THE ITALIAN COMPANY'S RECENT CONTACTS WITH ANKARA AUTHORITIES DISCLOSED THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO EXERCISE THE OPTIONS CONTAINED IN THE PREVIOUS CONTRACTS FOR 20 AIRCRAFT AND TO PURCHASE 20 MORE UNITS.

THE NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE TURKISH AIR FORCE THEREFORE AMOUNTS TO 44 UNITS (4 PLUS 20 PLUS 20).

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILL APPRECIATE IT IF THE EMBASSY WILL ASK ITS GOVERNMENT TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF SUBJECT AIRCRAFT, AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE AFORESAID MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS DEEMED ADVISABLE TO DRAW THE AMERICAN EMBASSY'S ATTENTION TO THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL IMPORTANCE THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THE AFORESAID SUPPLY, ALSO IN THE LIGHT OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS OF THE DESIRABILITY OF STRENGTHENING THE SOUTHEAST FLANK OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

COMPLIMENTARY CLOSING. END TEXT.

3. THE DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE THAT NO MENTION IS MADE OF SPARE PARTS. ACCORDING TO THE MFA, AERITALIA INDICATED ONLY THAT IT WOULD INVOLVE "THE USUAL PACKAGE".

4. THE MFA ECONOMIC OFFICE II (DIRECTOR REITANO) WILL IN FUTURE BE CHARGED WITH CONVEYING THIRD COUNTRY SALES REQUESTS TO THIS EMBASSY FOR TRANSMITTAL. REITANO INDICATED TO EMBOFF THAT THE MFA (URGED BY AERITALIA) WAS ANXIOUS TO GET EARLY APPROVAL IN ORDER TO AVOID GETTING CAUGHT IN ANOTHER U.S. BOYCOTT OF SALES TO TURKEY, A POSSIBILITY REPORTED BY THEIR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER THE PROPOSED ADDITIONAL SALES ARE INDEED FIRM DEALS BUT SUSPECT THE ITALIANS NEED PRIOR APPROVAL AS PART OF THEIR SALES PACKAGE. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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